

MAR 16 2004

OFFICIAL

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Aggarwal et al.

Serial No.: 09/397,503

Group Art Unit: 2134

Filed: September 17, 1999

Examiner: Zia, M.

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PRODUCING DUPLICATION- AND  
IMITATION-RESISTANT IDENTIFYING MARKS ON OBJECTS, AND DUPLICATION-  
AND IMITATION-RESISTANT OBJECTS

Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated January 12, 2004, please amend the  
above-identified application as follows, beginning on the next page.

Preliminary Remarks:

Applicants submit that the above-cited Office Action is somewhat confusing as to which  
claims are rejected and under which specific rejection each claim is being rejected, and that the  
claim status requires updating by the Examiner prior to appeal. For purpose of this response,  
Applicants assume that the Examiner's intent in the above-cited Office action is to maintain the  
rejection of the previous Office Action for those claims unlisted in the above-cited Office Action  
and that the above-cited Office Action is attempting to modify this earlier rejection, as based on  
the Applicants' claim amendments in the Amendment Under 37 CFR §1.111, filed October 30,  
2003, for only the claims specifically listed in the above-cited Office Action.

However, as explained more in the discussion below for the prior art rejections,  
Applicants submit that the Examiner seems confused on the plain meaning of the language of the  
previous claim amendments, the significance of this plain meaning relative to the prior art  
currently of record, and the propriety of combining features of prior art references.

S/N 09/397,503  
IBM Docket: YOR919990129US1

OK to enter  
per RCE 4-7-04

#12/  
B  
(initials)